

## How Can You Help?

Volunteer! CAST volunteers are required to take some introductory emergency response courses. All of these training courses are free, and the required self-study classes can be completed on the Internet. This training helps volunteers work side-by-side with a variety of emergency and disaster response agencies.

To become a CAST volunteer, contact the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety (telephone and e-mail information located on the back of this brochure).

You do not need to be a veterinarian, veterinary technician or assistant to help. Pet shelter operations and other assistance during disasters require all types of volunteers with various skill sets. CAST is seeking people to assist with pet shelter operations and clerical work, as well as assisting shelter residents with pet care needs and many other tasks.

\*Cover Photo Courtesy of FEMA.

**For additional information about this and other Fire and Life Safety programs, contact:**

**The York County Department of  
Fire and Life Safety  
Office of Emergency Management  
P.O. Box 532  
Yorktown, Virginia 23690-0532**

**(757) 890-3600  
Monday - Friday, 8:15 am to 5:00 pm**

E-mail: [flsafety@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:flsafety@yorkcounty.gov)

Web: [www.yorkcounty.gov/fire](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/fire)



CAST is a program of York County Citizen Corps and the effort to have everyone prepare, train, and volunteer.



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**Helping People,  
Help Animals**



# York County Community Animal Shelter Team Program

## Awareness

The threat of a natural or man-made disaster is a concern to everyone. Animals are especially vulnerable when a disaster strikes because they rely on us for help.

Most people consider their pets as part of their family. Studies show that if forced to choose between leaving their pets to go to a safe place or staying with their pets, almost 40% of people say they will not leave their pets.

Additionally, 80% of persons who reentered evacuated areas did so to rescue their pet.

The Department of Fire and Life Safety Office of Emergency Management has established the Community Animal Shelter Team (CAST) program in response to those significant statistics.

## What is CAST?

The CAST program provides a collaborative partnership for emergency sheltering of citizens, visitors, and their domestic/companion dogs and cats during large-scale emergencies or disasters.

The CAST is a public/private venture organized to meet the needs of animals and their owners before, during and immediately following a large-scale emergency or disaster.

York County's CAST program is coordinated by the Department of Fire and Life Safety Office of Emergency Management.

CAST members may include animal control officers, veterinarians, veterinary technicians and assistants, animal industry personnel, medical reserve corps, and citizen volunteers.

## CAST Program Goals

- To promote family and pet emergency preparedness at the individual and family levels.
- To assist with the set-up and staffing of short-term pet sheltering (domestic/companion dogs and cats) for the public who have evacuated their place of residence with their pet(s) (dog/cat) in anticipation of, or response to, a large-scale emergency or disaster.
- To assist with other pet-related needs during a disaster.

## CAST Training Program

- CAST Organization/Expectations
- National Incident Management
- System Overview
- Animal Behavior and Safety
- Animal Shelter Set-up/Operations
- Shelter Exercise

Additionally: Specific FEMA/Emergency Management Institute independent study courses may be required.